

Deputy Director, CIA

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NSC 78/2

1. Par. 2, Pp. 1-3. In order to bring the estimate of Soviet intentions and capabilities into closer agreement with CIA estimates, it is suggested that Par. 2 a. be revised to read: "War beginning days, months, or years from the date of this report is considered possible. The ultimate Soviet objective is a Communist world dominated by the USSR. Although the Soviets presumably prefer to avoid war in attainment of that objective ~~(or of any other objective preliminary or prerequisite thereto)~~, war is nevertheless an acceptable, and on occasion a necessary, instrument for the Soviets ~~to utilize~~ in pursuing their objectives. In determining whether or not to precipitate war with the U.S. at any particular time, the Soviets will take into account a variety of factors. One such factor is their estimate of US strength and determination."

Revise fifth and following sentences of Par. 2 c. to read: "The Soviets might take advantage of this situation. If and when they decide to attack they might initiate any and all damaging measures which are short of their estimate of the actions it would take for the U. S. to declare war. Threats, pressures, tensions, and sporadic sabotage for the specific purpose of causing clamor by the U.S. public for expensive protective measures might occur and must be properly evaluated as part of the Soviet planned course of action."

2. Par. 7 b (1)(c), Page 25. The AD/RR is currently discussing with the Navy Department the problem of merchant ship surveillance. It appears that the Navy reporting system on ship movements now provides a good share of the information desired by the Coast Guard, but additional field and headquarters facilities would be required to expand the coverage. The Navy receives any intelligence coming through CIA collection efforts. What additional measures should be undertaken and who should do them are subjects now being discussed. In view of the fact that responsibilities with respect to merchant ship surveillance are presently being discussed, it is suggested that this paragraph be revised to read: "Obtain, from intelligence sources any unfavorable information on specific vessels prior to their arrival off U.S. ports."